

March 16, 2009

**NOTICE OF AN INDEPENDENT GROWER
NOMINATION MEETING FOR THE STATE
MARKETING ORDER FOR CALIFORNIA RAISINS
CALIFORNIA RAISIN MARKETING BOARD**

TO THE INDEPENDENT RAISIN GROWER ADDRESSED:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Order for California Raisins and in cooperation with the California Raisin Marketing Board management is calling a meeting to accept independent grower nominations to be considered for five (5) member and five (5) alternate member positions for the Board term beginning June 1, 2009 and ending May 31, 2011.

Nominations for members and alternate members of the California Raisin Marketing Board representing independent raisin growers will be received at a nomination meeting held in the California Raisin Marketing Board Conference Center, 3445 North First Street, Suite 101, Fresno, CA on **Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. Nominations will be open for one hour.**

Nominations will be received from qualified independent raisin growers for member and alternate member positions to represent independent growers who are not affiliated with the Raisin Bargaining Association or Sun-Maid Growers of California.

This notice is being mailed to all independent growers of record with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Independent growers are encouraged to attend and participate in the nomination proceedings. Please be sure that any person nominated is willing and able to serve on the Board if appointed. It would be most helpful if you would provide a brief bio or nominee statement at this time. Nominee statements must be received no later than April 9th at the CRMB office. (Please disregard this notice if you are a member of either the Raisin Bargaining Association or Sun-Maid Growers of California as nominations from growers affiliated with these two entities will be taken in a different manner).

Subsequent to the nomination meeting, mail ballots will be sent out to obtain a preference vote for member and alternate member nominees. The Department will use the results of this preference voting in considering appointments to the California Raisin Marketing Board. **Ballots will be mailed on Friday, April 10th and due back or postmarked by Friday, May 1st, to the CDFA Marketing Branch at 1220 "N" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.**

If you have any questions, or if you would like further details, please contact Ms. Jeanne Wexler at (916) 341-6005, Mr. Larry Blagg or myself at (559) 248-0287.

Sincerely,

Gary Schulz
President/General Manager

cc: Mr. Robert Maxie, Ms. Jeanne Wexler, CDFA
Mr. Larry Blagg, Senior Vice President of Marketing

Nomination Procedures and Eligibility Requirements - Over

CALIFORNIA RAISIN MARKETING BOARD

2009 INDEPENDENT GROWER ELECTIONS

Nomination Procedures

Only independent growers currently in the business of producing raisins are eligible to participate in the preference voting process for the independent grower seats on the California Raisin Marketing Board (CRMB).

A nomination meeting is held **in April** every two years when terms of office expire. At this meeting the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) accepts names of independent growers who are eligible to be appointed to the Board for the next two-year term of office.

Ballots with the nominees listed are produced by CDFA and mailed to all independent growers of record. **Each grower is entitled to complete only one ballot regardless of the number of ranches they may have on record.** Ballots are mailed to CDFA in provided envelopes.

If a grower wishes to vote for a person or persons whose names are not listed on the ballot, he or she may do so by writing the names of these persons on the blank lines on the ballot and checking the box next to their names.

Eligibility Requirements

The determining factor in the eligibility of an independent grower is that grower's status at the time of the nomination and preference voting. If a grower was a member of Sun-Maid or the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA) during the CRMB fiscal year that began on August 1st of the year preceding the balloting procedure, that grower must sever this relationship prior to nominations to be eligible to run or vote as an independent grower. Deliveries made through either Sun-Maid or RBA do not disqualify a grower if he or she becomes independent prior to the nomination procedure. Likewise, cash deliveries to Sun-Maid do not disqualify a grower from independent status.

Also, in order to be eligible a grower must make deliveries of raisins to an independent handler during the CRMB fiscal year. If the grower has not made deliveries at the time of the nomination process, but indicates that he or she will make deliveries by July 31st he or she may run for an independent grower seat and/or vote in the independent grower balloting. However, if he or she is elected to the board and does not make deliveries by July 31st, this grower is disqualified from the Board position.

In the event of disqualification, the grower not appointed to the CRMB, but receiving the highest number of votes of those growers not appointed shall be recommended by the CRMB to the CDFA to fill the vacancy created by the resignation.